

A REFLECTION upon

Le Grand Dictionnaire Historique, &c.

OR, THE

Great Historical Dictionary

Of LEWIS MORERY, D. D.

Printed at UTRECHT 1692. with the Supplement of J. Le Clerc, D. D.
in Four TOMES in Folio, French;

AND

An Account of this Edition of the following BOOK.

THE Great Historical Dictionary of *Monsieur Morery*, was an unexpected Work to come from a Person, who understood not any Greek or Hebrew; and had but an indifferent knowledge of Latin. For it will be allowed, amidst such a multiplicity of Subjects, to contain many very ingenious things. Yet I desire not to commend him for the Invention he ascribes to the Chinese of the Province of Xamsi: who boyl their Victuals (he says) over Pits of Subterraneous Fires, proceeding from the Bowels of the Earth: Which, to make the Fire burn the quicker and stronger, they contract at the Mouths in such a manner, as only to leave room for the Caldron to stand. For though the Chinese are famous over the World for their Inventions; yet the Wit of this hath so little in it of the Wisdom of their Other, or Common Sense, that it supercedes the Civility of the least pretence to approve of it. Neither yet is it possible, for me to be reconciled to his Account of a Tribe of the Trogledytes; dwelling continually in the Caverns of a Mountain, in the Island of Malta; near to a House of Pleasure, belonging to the Great Master of the Order of the Knights there. A tall, robust, long-liv'd, inhospitable people, as he describes them: Who speak altogether the pure Arabick Language, in which they are instructed, as to masters of Religion, by the Maronites that come to Malta. For there appears no more Probability of an Arabian Race of Christian Trogledytes at Malta, than of a Nation of Pygmies in the Neighbourhood of the Nile. Therefore in a word, *Monsieur Morery*, as he hath his Excellencies, so he hath his great Faults too: And it seems to be none of the least remarkable of the Latter, That let a thing be never so Fabulous in *Pliny* and *Herodotus*, or the Histories of the old Greeks; never so extravagantly reported by the Modern Books of Voyages and Discoveries, or the Common *Memoires* of the Times; yet he mixes it with his purer Geography. Which hath given me continual reason to admire the Patience and Labour of his Pen: but I disagree with his Fancy, if he thought such Collections pleasing to Men of Sense; and with his Judgment, if he thought them true.

In his Geography of the Kingdom and Counties of England, there is no body but must be offended with him upon other Accounts. The principal of our Rivers (next the Thames) the Severn, the Trent, the Humber, the Mersey, the Derwent, &c. None of them have their Names with Descriptions in his Work. Peterborough, Wells, Cambridge, Shrewsbury, Richmond, and Rippon, are wholly omitted out of our Chief Towns and Cities. Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Cheshire, Shropshire and Wiltshire, out of our Counties. And all the Description that he gives to Eleven of our Counties more, with the Capital Towns thereunto belonging, will be justly rehearsed in about Eleven Lines. To South-